

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 1-12, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Dependent Claim 12 is the only new claim. No claims have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration together with entry of those amendments and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

The invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is directed to a sheet folding apparatus for folding a sheet by nipping the sheet taking a predetermined position in a convey direction as a fold and conveying the sheet by means of a pair of folding rollers, wherein at least one of the pair of folding rollers has a single large diameter portion and small diameter portions at both sides of the single large diameter portion, and the single large diameter portion is provided within a convey range in a sheet width direction of a minimum size sheet foldable in the sheet folding apparatus.

Claim 1 has thus been amended to clarify that the invention is directed to a sheet folding apparatus and that it achieves benefits in connection with the sheet folding apparatus. Thus, for example, the specification teaches that the structure of Applicants' invention enables tightly, stably nipping and conveying the sheet P at the sheet convey center portion of the roller without reducing the folding pressure between a pair of folding rollers or loosening the fold. (See, page 33, lines 6-10) The specification goes on to teach that at the same time, the gap b between the rollers can secure a relief for the pressure on the sheet with respect to

the sheet folding pressure from two ends when the sheet P is tightly nipped at the nip portions X and Y, thereby being effective for preventing any crease.

Independent Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Click, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,576,051). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Click, et al. relates to an apparatus which flattens a blown tubular film 34 by passing the film between an upper roller 21 and lower roller 22. The upper roller has two recesses 28 corresponding to each end section and the side edge of the film passes through those recesses, forming two parallel edge cushions 35.

Click, et al. fails to disclose a structure for folding a sheet at a predetermined position in a convey direction. It does not disclose a sheet feeding apparatus as defined in Claim 1. To the contrary, Click, et al. merely features a structure for flattening only a center portion of a tubular film, so as not to produce weakened brittle folds.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied reference does not disclose a sheet feeding apparatus as defined in Claim 1. Nor does such a reference suggest the apparatus of Claim 1. Indeed, there is nothing in Click, et al. to indicate the advantages of the present invention as discussed above and defined in the specification thereof.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record.

Claims 2-12 depend from Claim 1 either directly or indirectly and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection as it is being presented in an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the Amendment merely clarifies that the present invention is directed to a sheet folding apparatus and was entitled to appreciation of the advantages thereof. The amendments were not presented earlier as Applicants were of the firm belief that the claims previously on file were allowable over the art of record.

Lastly, there is accompanying this Amendment an Information Disclosure Statement submitting references cited in a communication from a corresponding foreign application. Careful consideration of the references considered to be relevant by the foreign Search Report is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

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